Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP88B00443R001003870081-7

SECRET

Executive Registry
81-6858

Memo Chron

26 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : SNIE on Soviets and Terrorism

1. I am greatly disappointed with the draft SNIE on terrorism and would not be willing to put my name on it. The problem has been improperly defined. The draft addressed itself to the question of whether there was any evidence that the Soviets exercised direct operation control of terrorist groups. It has the air of a lawyer's plea that the indictment should not issue because there is not enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the Soviets directly control terroristic groups. There are two things wrong with that:

(i) Practical judgments on which policy is based in the real world do not require that standard of proof, which is frequently just not available.

(ii) The real question is the extent to which the Soviets either directly or through their satellites train, supply and otherwise support these groups, what it tells us as to their political and strategic objectives and how Soviet policy with respect to terrorism might be altered or otherwise dealt with.

2. I find it deficient in intellectual and semantic rigor and over-reliance on Soviet statements.

3. I do not wish to ask those who prepared this draft to correct its faults or otherwise alter it. I am therefore asking the Defense Intelligence Agency, which has prepared alternative language which clearly addresses itself more aptly to the central questions, to prepare a new draft.

William J. Casey

Distr

Orig - NFA
1 - O/DCI Chrono
1 - DDCI
1 - ER File

25X1

SECRET

Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP88B00443R001003870081-7